

Town of Frederick Town Board



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IM 2009- 007

Northern Integrated Supply Project Update and Discussion

Agenda Date: Town Board Meeting - March 10, 2009

Attachments:

- a. NISP Participants Description
- b. NISP Public Affairs Plan – 2009
- c. Draft bylaws for Participants Group

Issue/Request:

Staff will present an update on the status of the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP). This will include a discussion of the Public Relations efforts and a proposed new identity to use in place of "NISP Participants".

Submitted by: Richard Leffler, P.E. 
Town Engineer

Approved for Presentation: 
Town Administrator

AV Use Anticipated Projector x Laptop

Certification of Board Review:

Town Clerk

Date

Detail of Issue/Request:

As presented in the February 2009 *NISPNEWS* that was recently distributed to the Town Board and to the public, NISP is moving forward. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (COE) will prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address in more detail issues raised during the public comment period following the April 2008 release of the NISP Draft EIS. This is a typical step in the NEPA process that is required for projects that are of the size and type of the NISP project.

As part of the ongoing work, NISP participants retained the internationally renowned engineering and scientific firm of Black & Veatch to perform an independent study of concerns raised by the City of Fort Collins. The completed study dispels several myths about the impacts NISP might have on Fort Collins' water and wastewater treatment processes. This technical analysis clearly shows that claims made by Fort Collins are false and that any potential impacts from NISP are insignificant.

Frederick and the other NISP participants are exploring the most effective means of sharing this positive information, along with the very positive results of a public survey completed in fall 2008, in the most effective manner. Northern Water staff is coordinating their efforts with Floyd Ciruli, well known and respected pollster, and Burns Communication to develop and carry out a public relations effort to accomplish this task. As noted in the attached NISP Participants Description and the NISP Public Affairs Plan – 2009, the groups mission is to “Educate and inform the general public, political leaders and special interest groups about the Northern Integrated Supply Project”.

As mentioned in the February 10, 2009 Administrative report, it has been proposed that the NISP participants form a group to act as an advocate in representing the mutual interests of the NISP member communities. Two suggested names are the “Communities for Sustainable Water” or simply “Communities for Water”. A draft set of bylaws for this group is attached. This subject is on the agenda for the next Participant Committee Meeting on March 4 and staff will provide additional information at the Board meeting.

Legal/Political Considerations:

The draft set of bylaws have been presented to the Town Attorney for review and comment. Copies of letters of support that were sent to our Congressional delegation have been provided to Town Board in the last meeting packet.

Alternatives/Options:

There are various ways that the Town of Frederick and other NISP participants could proceed in attempts to procure adequate future water supplies, either as a group or individually. These options have been reviewed by past and present Boards and will certainly continue to be a topic of discussion. Concerns with and costs of treating other water sources of lower quality than the NISP water have led the Town to pursue NISP. While it is Town staff's opinion that it is likely that NISP will be permitted by the COE, and that a substantial part of NISP could proceed and deliver water even without the permit, there is no guarantee NISP as proposed will be completed by the anticipated date of completion.

Financial Considerations:

Additional funds from participants will be required to complete the additional studies and to fund construction when a permit is obtained and final design is completed. Funds are included in the 2009 Approved Budget in the Water Shares Fund to cover anticipated NISP costs this year.

Staff Recommendation:

This is an informational item and staff is looking for feedback and guidance from the Town Board.